

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2524
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2001
VISA TO SIKH PILGRIMS
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether for the last few years visas are not being granted by Pakistan to Sikh pilgrims who intend to pay visit to Nankana Sahib in Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the details about the number of times when visa had been denied by the Pakistan Government; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the pilgrimage of Nankana Sahib by the pilgrims?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a,b & c) Visits to holy shrines in India and Pakistan are held in accordance with the 'Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines-1974'. Over the years, Pakistan has been issuing visas to Sikh pilgrims to visit Nankana Sahib and some other Gurdwaras in Pakistan.